

SA success at international venue

STAR TUESDAY 13 5 74

If you can imagine the vast area of the Milner Park Show-ground under one roof, you gain an idea of the tremendous size of the recent "Art 5" at Basle, Switzerland.

A relatively new exposure of world graphics (last year it was "Art 4," next year it will be "Art 6"), possibly this yearly fair has come into being because of the great interest in graphics that has swept the world in the past six years or so.

Mrs Caroline Haenggi, who accompanied her husband, Fernand, to Basle for the five-day international show of graphics, says that the noise was unimaginable. "You heard every language under the sun, yet hardly any English," she said. Fernand Haenggi was the only South African

representative and he is elated that the graphics of the seven artists he took over were so enthusiastically received.

Haenggi has become a publisher of graphics. All work he handles (printed in Pretoria) will fall under his seal of "Editions 21." About half the graphics of each of the seven South African artists (with runs of about 50 from every composition) were snapped up by world collectors at Basle.

A visit to Fernand Haenggi's Gallery 21 gives you an idea of the work shown at Basle. The vivid tones and emphatic shaping that are part of the silk-screen process, suit Stephanie Watson in her vivacious colour patterns. The husband-and-wife artists, Tadeus and Karin Jaroscinski (who shortly leave for Europe on a painting trip) gain greater free-

dom in their graphics to exploit their bizarre ideas.

Karin has a breath of medieval times traced through her fantasies and Tadeus (whose superlative graphics easily equal the work of any overseas graphic artist) has a kind of Jules Verne futuristic imagery in his complex studies.

You could say that Karin is influenced by the past, and Tadeus by the future, in their eerie (but technically exceptionally accomplished) pictures.

The whole show is immensely stimulating and all the other artists (Abrams, Baldinelli, Battiss and De Jong) can be lauded for their fine and individualistic techniques in these modern graphics.

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MADAME FERNANDE HAENGGI (Fernand's mother) was the first

member of the Haenggi family to establish a gallery in Johannesburg. She cannot precisely remember when she started the gallery ("I was the very first tenant in Rand Central Building," she said), but it was to become a leading central city venue.

With her delightful French accent and her flashing, dark eyes, she is probably the best-known personality in our art-world. I stand under correction, but I think I started calling her "Madame" instead of the unimaginative "Mrs" — which did not suit her ebullient personality.

A year ago Madame Haenggi sold her gallery that had seen many fine shows of contemporary and realistic art (almost every established contemporary artist had exhibited there), pleading that she was nearly 70.

Gallery
Guide
RICHARD
CHEALES

But now she has bounded back into the art-stream, opening a smaller gallery (Madame Haenggi's Gallery) in the Standard Bank Centre, Hollard Street. At present she is showing the collection of paintings and sculpture she has collected over the years. She is on the lookout for talented artists who wish to have one-man shows.

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ERIC PITHEY is one of two or three artists against whom fate invariably seems to work.

A couple of years

ago, when he exhibited this oil landscapes and still lifes at a 17th-storey restaurant in Braamfontein, the fantastic panorama of Johannesburg seen through the windows would have diminished the impact of the finest artists in the world.

Several months ago, when Pithey showed his paintings at Sandton City for a week, his review was trimmed in this column for lack of space.

Now fate has played a trick on Pithey in allowing him to find a vigorous, masculine method of application, but handing out little subtlety with the lively, even flamboyant, style.

Pithey's exhibition at Upstairs Gallery should appeal to those who like thatched cottages (or African huts), mauve mountains and lush trees.

He uses his icing-

slick palette-knife style effectively in "Storm at Sea," "Atlantic Wave" and "Sea."

CURRENT EXHIBITIONS

Dennis Hotz Gallery, Hyde Park Shopping Corner: South African artists.

Elizabeth Art Gallery, 3 Savoy Centre: Contemporary SA artists.

Gallery 101, Rand Central Building: Paintings by Terence McCaw.

Gallery 21, Hyde Park Shopping Corner: Graphics by seven SA artists.

Goodman Gallery, Hyde Park Square: Winter exhibition — new international acquisitions.

Herbert Evans Gallery: Gerda Jagers and Sylvia Berk exhibit.

Lidchi Art Gallery: Last day of Michael Costello exhibition.

Lister Art Gallery: New acquisitions.

Madame Haenggi's Gallery, Standard Bank Centre, Hollard Street: Group show.

Madden Galleries, Sandton City: Winter exhibition.

Pieter Wenning Gallery: Group show.

Upstairs Gallery, Oster Chambers: Eric Pithey paintings.

Wildenstein Gallery, Sandton City: Marc Chagall paintings.

West Ridge High School, Horsham: Graphic exhibition.

COMING EXHIBITIONS

Lidchi Art Gallery: From tomorrow, paintings by Barbara Parker.

Sandown Gallery, Sandton City: From tomorrow, watercolours by Douglas Treasure.

90 Kerry Road, Parkview: From Saturday August 17, paintings by Ulrich Schwan-ecke.

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